

REMARKS

Applicant appreciates the examiner's reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as well as the examiner's courtesy during his telephone conference with applicant's attorney on November 29, 2004. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested in view of the preceding amendment and the following remarks.

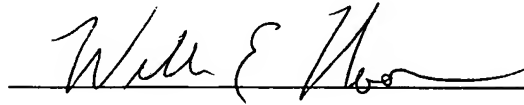
The examiner has withdrawn claims 18, 21 and 22 from consideration as being drawn to a non-elected species.

Claims 14 – 16, 19, 20, 23 and 24 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Flagg. In addition, claims 14 – 17, 19 and 20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Maltarp in view of Fricke et al. The examiner has allowed claims 1 – 7, 12 and 13.

In response to the examiner's action, applicant has canceled the remaining rejected claims. The only claims remaining under consideration in the present case are allowed claims 1 – 7, 12 and 13. Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that the application is now in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

If a telephone conference would help to advance the prosecution of this application, the examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (239) 481-0900.

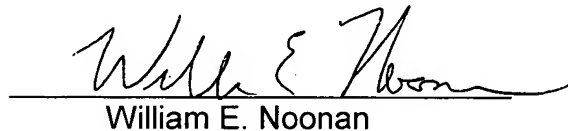
Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "William E. Noonan", written over a horizontal line.

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this 6th day of December, 2004.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "William E. Noonan", written over a horizontal line.
William E. Noonan